



The Visit of the Magi, here depicted as kings, as found in the Cathédrale Notre-Dame d'Amiens in Northern France.

*Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Isaiah 60:3*

Sunday Schedule

9:00 Christian Formation

10:00 Worship

Nursery for Ages 0-5 and Mother's Room: We have a safe and fun nursery located at the end of the hall in the Veritas Cafe. Please follow the signs. We use a Kid Check program for security.

Video: There is a video feed of the worship live-streamed to the Conference Room at the end of the hallway for anyone who needs to step out of the service.

Isaiah 60:1-3

When these verses in Isaiah are seen looking back from the point of the incarnation, they possibly foretell the events that led the Gentile nations (as represented by the Magi) towards Bethlehem to discover the Son of David, Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

January 6, 2019 | The Epiphany of our Lord

Epiphany

Our word *epiphany* comes from a Greek word meaning “manifestation or appearance,” and in church history this word has become closely associated with the revelation of Christ in connection with the visit of the Magi.

When we use the word *epiphany* we usually mean an experience when we suddenly ‘get’ or ‘see’ something. This is what the Season of Epiphany (6 January-22 February) is all about. It is a sudden *aha!* moment of understanding who Christ is, what he has done, and how we experience God’s glorious grace through him.

During Epiphany this year, remember these words from John’s Gospel: “I have written these things so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” Some of us are investigating Jesus for the first time. For others, Jesus has been part of our lives for years. Regardless of your history with him, Epiphany is a perfect time to discover who Jesus is, draw near to him, and experience true life through him.

Call to Worship

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.
See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.
Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

THE PEOPLE WHO IN DARKNESS WALKED

JOHN MORRISON, 1781



1. The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo - rious light;
2. To us the prom - ised child is born, to us a son is giv'n.
3. His peace and right - eous gov - ern - ment shall o - ver all ex - tend;



the heav'n - ly dawn broke forth on those who dwelt in death and night.
and on his shoul - ders ev - er rests all pow - er in earth and heav'n.
on judg - ment and on jus - tice based, his reign shall nev - er end.



To greet you, Sun of Right - eous - ness, the gath r'ing na - tions come;
His name shall be the Prince of Peace for - ev - er - more a - dored,
Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, and make us yours a - lone,



re - joic - ing as when reap - ers bring their har - vest trea - sures home.
the Won - der - ful, the Coun - se - lor, the Might - y God and Lord.
who with the Fa - ther, ev - er are and Ho - ly Spir - it, one!

Opening Prayer

**Almighty God,
you gave your Son, Jesus Christ, to be the light of the world:
We praise and magnify your holy name that in him
you have revealed the wonder of your saving love to all people.
With those of old who brought their tribute to his feet,
confessing him as King of heaven and earth,
we now present the worship of our grateful hearts,
asking you to give us grace to give ourselves to you,
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

Scripture

Give the king your justice, O God,
and your righteousness to the royal son!
May he judge your people with righteousness,
and your poor with justice!
Let the mountains bear prosperity for the people,
and the hills, in righteousness!
May he defend the cause of the poor of the people,
give deliverance to the children of the needy,
and crush the oppressor!

May they fear you while the sun endures,
and as long as the moon, throughout all generations!
May he be like rain that falls on the mown grass,
like showers that water the earth!
In his days may the righteous flourish,
and peace abound, till the moon be no more!

May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands
render him tribute;
may the kings of Sheba and Seba
bring gifts!
May all kings fall down before him,
all nations serve him!

For he delivers the needy when he calls,
the poor and him who has no helper.
He has pity on the weak and the needy,
and saves the lives of the needy.
From oppression and violence he redeems their life,
and precious is their blood in his sight.

Psalm 72

All of the psalms that speak of wise, earthly kings, describe an ideal; only Christ can truly embody the reality.

In Psalm 72, we find a prayer for Israel's king. In its ancient context, the psalm focused on what it would mean for Israel's king to rule over the nation. But we will also see that it hints at a day when the world's true King would rule over all nations.

Notice what is said of him here.

PSALM 72



1. O God, give to the King your jus - tice, his son your ___right-eous-
 2. May for the peo - ple hill and moun-tain bring forth the ___peace they
 3. Long may he live and rule our na - tion, may peace on ___earth be



ness. You are the God in whom our trust is; your
 seek. And jus - tice flow - ing like a foun-tain re -
 found. And bless-ings for each gen - er - a - tion and



hand a - lone can bless. May he, the roy - al
 store the ___ faint and weak. May he de - fend the
 right - eous - ness a - bound. May in the cit - ies



son, be reign-ing with judg - ments ___ true and sure, to all your
 poor and need - y, may he their ___ child-ren save, and crush op -
 peo - ple flow - er like hill - sides ___ in the spring. May all the



peo - ple right or - dain - ing your jus - tice to the poor. *Interlude*
 pres - sors proud and greed - y lift up the ran-somed slave. *Interlude*
 earth ac - claim his pow - er and of his glo - ry sing.



Ending
 All peo-ple join in cel - e - bra-tion and tell his ___deeds a - gain.



Let all the earth and all ___ cre - a-tion sing prais-es to God, A - men!



Sing prais-es to God, A - men! Sing prais-es to God, A - men. ___

Confession of Sin

Confession

Confession of sin happens within the context of relationship, both with God and each other. We confess together, in community, before a gracious God who has given us himself. Confession both acknowledges our need for mercy and celebrates its abundance in Christ.

**Almighty and merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned
against you and one another
in both our actions and our inactions.
We recognize that in Jesus Christ our light has come,
yet often we choose to walk in shadows and ignore the light.
Gracious God, forgive our sins and remove from us
any veil of darkness that shrouds our lives.
Illumined by your Word and sacrament,
may we rise to the radiance of Christ's glory. Amen.**

(You are invited to confess your sins silently.)

Assurance of Pardon

Ephesians 3:1-12

This mystery is now revealed: Christ has come to unify Jew and Gentile in one body through the gospel. In Christ and through faith in him, Christians may approach God with freedom and confidence, knowing that our sins have been forgiven by the blood of Christ.

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

BE THOU MY VISION

ANCIENT IRISH POEM, 8TH C.



1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Rich - es I heed not, nor man's emp - ty praise,
 4. High King of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heav-en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day or by night,
 thou my great Fa - - - ther, I thy true son;
 thou and thou on - - - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I with thee one. *Interlude*
 High King of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.



Be my vi - sion, Ru - ler of all.

Welcome and Announcements

Offering

The offering is part of our regular worship. Our hope is that all gifts offered will come from an understanding that we give because God first gave to us, and that every penny will be carefully and thoughtfully invested in cultivating faith in Jesus Christ.

Reception of New Members

Joel Barrett
John and Marjorie Erisman
Paul and Laural Hildebrand
Brian and Ivonne Lambie
Kirsten Mattson

1. Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God, and Savior of sinners, and do you receive and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered in the gospel?
2. Do you promise, by relying upon the strength of the Holy Spirit, that you will live as a true disciple of Jesus Christ?
3. Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?
4. Do you submit yourselves to the government and discipline of the church, and promise to promote its purity and peace?

Passing of the Peace

As recipients of God's grace, we gladly receive peace from him. In response to his grace, we also extend that grace to one another with a handshake or a hug. Traditionally, Christians have greeted one another during this time in the service with the phrase, "The peace of Christ be with you."

Sermon

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar— when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. 3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

“A voice of one calling in the desert,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.
5 Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.
The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.
6 And all mankind will see God’s salvation.’”

7 John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. 9 The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.”

10 “What should we do then?” the crowd asked. 11 John answered, “The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same.” 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized. “Teacher,” they asked, “what should we do?” 13 “Don’t collect any more than you are required to,” he told them. 14 Then some soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?” He replied, “Don’t extort money and don’t accuse people falsely—be content with your pay.”

15 The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. 16 John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. 17 His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.” 18 And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them.

19 But when John rebuked Herod the tetrarch because of Herodias, his brother’s wife, and all the other evil things he had done, 20 Herod added this to them all: he locked John up in prison.

“God’s Highway In the Desert Is Named Repentance”
Rev. Brad Chaney

Luke 3:1-20

Sermon Series
*Luke: the Gospel of
Amazement*

Celebration of Baptism

Erika Dawn Parker
Daughter of Ray and Mariesa Parker

1. Do you acknowledge your daughter's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?
2. Do you claim God's covenant promises on her behalf, and do you look in faith to the Lord Jesus Christ for her salvation, as you do for your own?
3. Do you now unreservedly dedicate your daughter to God, and promise that by relying on God's grace you will endeavor to set before her a godly example; that you will pray with and for her; that you will teach her the doctrines of our faith; and that you will strive to bring her up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord?
4. To the congregation: Do you as a congregation agree to assist the parents in the Christian nurture of this child?

**Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.**

The Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper, also called Communion or the Eucharist, is the family meal of Christians. We invite all baptized followers of Jesus Christ who acknowledge their sins against God and their neighbors, and confess their need for the grace of Christ to partake of this meal. If you are a Christian and haven't been baptized, please talk with one of our pastors. We would be honored to baptize you.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

We thank you, God, for sending a star
to guide the wise ones to the Christ child.
But, even more, we praise you for signs and witnesses
in every generation that lead us to Christ.
We thank you for the covenant made first with Israel—
promising to be Israel's light and salvation.
You made Israel your people and promised that through them
all the peoples of the world would be blessed.

We thank you for prophets who declared your Word,
for priests who made sacrifices for the sins of many,
and for kings and rulers who ruled with justice,
lifted up the poor and needy,
and defended the people from their enemies.

With the apostles, prophets, and martyrs;
with all those through the ages who have loved the Lord Jesus Christ;
and with all who strive to serve him on earth here and now,
we join our voices in offering praise
to the God of loving power and powerful love.

Communion

Wine is available in the inner two circles; grape juice is available in the outer ring. Gluten-free wafers are available in a basket on the back table.

We hold the bread and wine until everyone has been served in order to eat and drink together.

We ask that you dispense with your cups by the back door following the service.

Just as the climax of all history will be the Wedding Supper of the Lamb, we conclude our worship in the presence of God by feasting. The Spirit takes the common elements of bread and wine and feeds us spiritually with the body and blood of Jesus, for our nourishment and growth in grace, and so strengthens us to be sent out into the world as God's agents of his generous hospitality.

WE ARE THE BODY

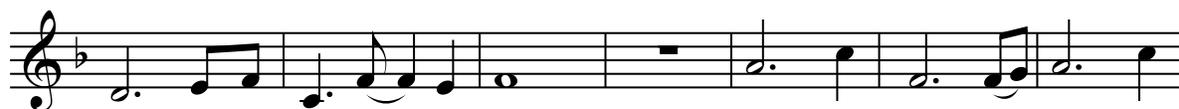
SCOTT WESLEY BROWN, DAVID HAMPTON, 1998



One heart, one Spir-it, one voice to praise you, we are the



Bod-y__ of Christ. One goal, one vi-sion to see you ex-alt-ed,



we are the Bod-y__ of Christ. And to this we give our



lives to see you glor-i-fied. One heart, one Spir-it, one



voice to praise you, we are the Bod-y__ of Christ.

Benediction

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you,
that your lives may be a light to the world;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.